

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                   |                   |                  |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Applicant:</b> | Satoshi Otsuka    | <b>Examiner:</b> | Unassigned        |
| <b>Serial No:</b> | To be assigned    | <b>Art Unit:</b> | Unassigned        |
| <b>Filed:</b>     | Herewith          | <b>Docket:</b>   | 17281             |
| <b>For:</b>       | MEDICAL APPARATUS | <b>Dated:</b>    | November 26, 2003 |

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,815,640, dated September 29, 1998, issued to Wang et al.;
2. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 7-227398, dated August 29, 1995; and
3. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 8-254472, dated October 1, 1996.

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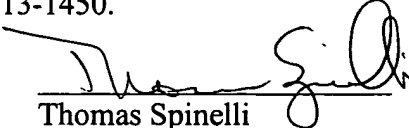
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

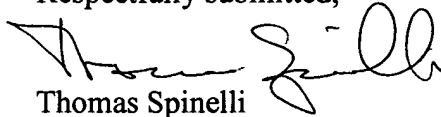
Dated: November 26, 2003

  
Thomas Spinelli

Applicant is submitting copies of references 2 and 3. Reference 1 is not being submitted herewith, as copies of U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003. The relevance of the above-cited references has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Spinelli", written over the printed name.

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TS:cm

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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b><br><i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | Docket Number (Optional)<br><b>17281</b> | Application Number<br><b>To be assigned</b> |
|  | Applicant(s)<br><b>Satoshi Otsuka</b>    |   |
|  | Filing Date<br><b>Herewith</b>           | Group Art Unit<br><b>Unassigned</b>         |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE      | NAME        | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                      |     | 5,815,640       | 9/29/1998 | Wang et al. |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |           |             |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |           |             |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |           |             |       |          |                               |
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|                      |     |                 |           |             |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |           |             |       |          |                               |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

|  | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE      | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation |    |
|--|-----|-----------------|-----------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|  |     | 7-227398        | 8/29/1995 | Japan   |       |          |             |    |
|  |     | 8-254472        | 10/1/1996 | Japan   |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          |             |    |
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|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |           |         |       |          |             |    |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.